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## **Appeal Denied for Federal Disaster Aid for Dane, Richland and Vernon Counties Tornadoes**

### ***27 Tornadoes Hit Southern Wisconsin on August 18, 2005***

MADISON – Governor Doyle today criticized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for denying his appeal for federal disaster assistance for Dane, Richland and Vernon Counties. The Governor, informed of the decision today, said FEMA is “turning their back on the people of Wisconsin who were affected by the devastating tornadoes of August 18<sup>th</sup>.”

The worst tornado outbreak in Wisconsin’s recorded history took place on August 18, 2005, with 27 tornadoes hitting southern Wisconsin. One person was killed and over 20 people were injured. The hardest hit areas were Dane, Richland and Vernon Counties. An F3 tornado touched down in Dane County causing a 17 mile long and ½ mile wide path of destruction and an F2 tornado hit the village of Viola. More than 400 homes were damaged and 67 were destroyed by the tornadoes.

On August 25, Governor Doyle formally requested federal disaster aid for the three affected counties. The request was denied and on October 18, the Governor formally submitted an appeal stressing that there are still unmet needs to both the private and public sectors, financial needs that could and must be addressed through a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Doyle also pointed out Wisconsin has been hit hard this year with other disasters that the state did not request federal disaster aid for. Those emergencies included the Cottonville Fire in Adams County that occurred in May and recent flooding in early October in Northwestern Wisconsin.

The National Weather Service reported this fall that total damage from the tornadoes on August 18 was over \$43 million. This included damage to the private and public sectors as well as agriculture losses and insurance claims.

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